UNITED NATIONS

Convention to Combat Desertification

Distr.
GENERAL

ICCD/COP(3)/5/Add.1
3 August 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
Third session
Recife, 15-26 November 1999
Item 8(c) of the provisional agenda

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

REVIEW OF REPORTS BY DEVELOPED COUNTRY PARTIES ON MEASURES TAKEN TO ASSIST IN THE PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTION PROGRAMMES, INCLUDING INFORMATION ON FINANCIAL RESOURCES THEY HAVE PROVIDED, OR ARE PROVIDING, UNDER THE CONVENTION

Note by the secretariat

Addendum

CONTENTS

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	INTRODUCTION	1-2	2
II.	REPORTS RECEIVED FROM DEVELOPED COUNTRY PARTIES	3-4	2
III.	SYNTHESIS OF INFORMATION CONTAINED IN REPORTS OF DEVELOPED COUNTRY PARTIES	5-18	3

GE.99-65364

I. INTRODUCTION

1. By decision 11/COP.1 on procedures for the communication of information and review of implementation, the Conference of the Parties:

(a) Requested developed country Parties to report on measures taken to assist in the preparation and implementation of action programmes, including information on financial resources they have provided, or are providing, under the Convention;

(b) Requested Parties to submit their reports to the secretariat at least six months prior to the session at which they are to be reviewed; and

(c) Requested the secretariat to compile the summaries of reports thus submitted.

2. By decisions 2/COP.2, paragraph 1(c), and 5/COP.2, paragraph 3, the Conference of the Parties, at its second session:

(a) Decided to include on the agenda of its third and, if necessary, fourth sessions, a review of reports by developed country Parties on measures taken to assist in the preparation and implementation of action programmes, including information on financial resources they have provided, or are providing, under the Convention; and

(b) Recalled that reports should be submitted in conformity with procedures contained in decision 11/COP.1.

II. REPORTS RECEIVED FROM DEVELOPED COUNTRY PARTIES

3. The secretariat sent several reminders in February, March and May 1999 to developed country Parties and also invited the European Union representative to send a reminder to all its members. A submission from Sweden was sent to the UNCCD secretariat before the deadline of 31 May 1999. Submissions from Canada, Finland, Germany, Spain and the United Kingdom (preliminary) were received before 2 July and have also been included in the compilation.

4. By decision 11/COP.1, the Conference of the Parties instructed the secretariat to compile the summaries of the submitted reports. This compilation is given below. In absence of a summary, the whole document was taken into account. When a report covered Africa and other regions, the compilation only considered the information concerning affected African developing country Parties. As most of the submitted reports followed their own format, the compilation had to be presented through a country approach. Therefore, on the basis of the reports and factual data submitted, it is not yet possible to draw pertinent conclusions on emerging trends in the implementation of the Convention with regard to developed countries.

III. SYNTHESIS OF INFORMATION CONTAINED IN REPORTS OF DEVELOPED COUNTRY PARTIES

5. The reports contain a great deal of interesting information and data, which may be classified in the following three categories, by order of the quantity of information provided:

(a) *Technical and financial data on bilateral cooperation activities* with affected African developing countries in terms of operational projects and programmes in fields related to desertification and combating desertification. The reports also revealed the difficulty of determining how much of a project's impact, or what share of a supported organization's work, should fall into the category of contributing to "combating desertification";

(b) *Information on support for desertification-related efforts carried out by various partners* such as non-governmental organizations (Northern, Southern and international) and academic institutions (universities and colleges). Support to multilateral development institutions engaged for combating desertification was also mentioned. The reports also pointed to the difficulty of measuring the direct impact of such activities on the implementation of the Convention at national and subregional level;

(c) *Information on assistance provided to developing countries and to subregional and regional institutions to prepare and implement their action programmes*. This category of priority information was not always provided in the detail required by decision 5/COP.2. Only scant information was given by developed countries on supported activities such as awareness-raising, national forums, training, and capacity-building in the framework of national, subregional and regional action programmes".

Canada

6. Canada supported Burkina Faso, Mali and Senegal, in the preparation of their NAPs. Priority in this process was placed on consultation with, and participation by, the people most affected, and local level awareness and action. In Burkina Faso, Canada provided financial and technical help to the process, played a helpful role in the discussion on the development of national funds under the NAP and assisted in developing a methodology for indicators to measure the success of the consultative process for the NAP.

7. At subregional level, the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) programme on managing resources and combating desertification, which is helping in the preparation of desertification strategy, received financial assistance from Canada. Canada also supported various related initiatives, such as the project to strengthen community organizations in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger and to improve NGO coordination at national, regional and international levels. In West Africa, the Canadian NGO "Solidarité Canada Sahel" is implementing the

CAN$ 18 million project funded by the Canadian International Development Agency to strengthen civil society in the Sahel. In addition, media awareness-raising focused on support for the newsletter "Haramata", which links policy-makers and practitioners in East, West and Southern Africa. Furthermore, Canada contributes to all multilateral organizations active in Africa (United Nations agencies, World Bank, African Development Bank, IFAD, etc.) as well as to the Club du Sahel, the CILSS and the Southern African Development Community.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

8. The United Kingdom considers that a desertification NAP in a severely affected country may be assimilated to a national strategy for sustainable development, and seeks ways to simplify and rationalize the links between them. Through its experience in Africa, the United Kingdom stresses that desertification activities are best conceived as an integral component of other development activities and strategies, but this makes monitoring the contribution of different activities difficult. The United Kingdom has not yet participated in any partnership agreements with affected countries in Africa but plans to consider how best to support NAP based on priorities established by the affected countries concerned, including through partnership agreements, if appropriate.

9. The Department for International Development (DFID) bilateral programme for Africa is managed by six geographical departments, with a planned budget of £450 million for this financial year, almost 50 per cent of United Kingdom bilateral country spending. Commitments specifically to desertification-related activities over the last two years totalled £53.5 million. The United Kingdom also supports a number of multilateral organizations that contribute to the development of the poorest countries, particularly in Africa (including the European Community, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Bank) and has pledged over £215 million to the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

10. DFID is involved at national and provincial level in South Africa, in agricultural policy, land reform and land rights and in Botswana with relevant Government departments such as meteorological services, agriculture, wildlife and national parks. DFID also support agricultural capacity-building and environmental management initiatives in Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland and drew up individual drought strategy papers for Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The DFID projects in Zambia and Zimbabwe focus particularly on drought preparedness and mitigation. In East Africa, DFID supports initiatives to improve the livelihood of the poor in the drylands of Kenya and Somalia and implemented drought warning and food aid response projects in Ethiopia, Namibia, Somalia and Sudan. In North and West Africa, DFID is supporting government agricultural sector reforms in Ghana and also works with regional organizations (Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of West and Central Africa, Club du Sahel/CILSS and the Conférence de responsables de recherche agronomique africain (CORAF)).

Finland

11. Finland recently decided to provide funding through the Office to Combat Desertification and Drought (UNSO) for a multi-year programme of catalytic support for the implementation of the Convention in the Arab region encompassing also support for the launching of the NAP processes in two or more individual African countries and for a regional component covering all the countries of North Africa and Middle East. An agreement and action plans are being worked out during the latter part of 1999. The programme as a whole may amount to the equivalent of about US$ 2.0 million over three to four years. In addition, Finland has provided financial support of US$ 57,400 through the UNCCD secretariat, for the preparation of national reports by the African countries of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) subregion.

12. In 1998 and 1999 Finland contributed, through the UNCCD secretariat, a total of US$ 127,400 to the preparatory process for a regional action programme for Africa. The funding was used in the context of the regional action programme to combat desertification to support regional thematic workshops on promotion of agroforestry and soil conservation (held in Bamako in June 1998), on rangelands and fodder crops (held in Addis Ababa in August 1998) and on promotion of sustainable farming systems (held in Niamey in March 1999).

Germany

13. Germany is currently implementing approximately 120 bilateral projects in the field of desertification control in the narrower and in the broader sense, accounting for a total volume of commitments of more than DM 1 billion (around US$ 575 million). A special fund of approximately US$ 3.4 million was created in 1995 to support African country Parties in preparing their NAPs. So far, funding ranging from US$ 14,000 to US$ 315,000 has been approved for nine African countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, the Gambia, Mauritania, Morocco, Namibia, Senegal, South Africa and Tunisia. In addition, three regional UNCCD conferences have been financed from the special fund (the Pan-African Ministerial Conference in Burkina Faso, 1997 for US$ 350,000; the Second Technical Workshop for Selected African Focal Points in Eritrea, 1997 for US$ 110,000; and the Third Technical Workshop for Selected African Focal Points in Lesotho, 1997 for US$ 110,000).

14. Germany became the *chef de file* in Mali in 1995, adopting coordinating functions on behalf of the donor side and supporting through organizational support, expert advice and catalytic functions, the joint drafting of the NAP and the implementation of the UNCCD by all interested donors. In Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Chad, the Gambia, Namibia, Senegal and South Africa, representatives of German development cooperation are actively involved in the work of the national UNCCD coordinating bodies that have been set up there. The process of concluding partnership agreements is currently in its start-up phase. In Mali, where this process appears to be particularly far advanced, the German side is involved in preparatory deliberations on partnership agreements with interested donors.

15. Germany is supporting regional organizations CILSS, IGAD, SADC, the Club du Sahel and the Observatory of the Sahara and the Sahel (OSS), with a total funding of almost US$ 15.5 million since 1993, playing a prominent part in partnership agreements, programme support, coherent planning, and development of indicators. Germany also contributes to multilateral organizations playing a role in implementing the UNCCD in Africa (UNSO, UNEP, FAO, World Bank). Germany also contributes 24 per cent of the funding of the European Union on activities undertaken on desertification control and on implementing the Convention as well as providing more than 10 per cent of total GEF funding of US$ 350 million.

Spain

16. Spain, through bilateral cooperation, provided technical assistance to Algeria, Angola, Equatorial Guinea, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Senegal and Tunisia to combat desertification, and to support sustainable development of developing countries, with special emphasis on fighting poverty and generating alternative incomes. Activities in Africa concerned the fight against desertification, soil conservation and erosion control (2), natural resources conservation and institutional support (16), conservation of water resources (5), forestry and hydrological recuperation of watersheds (3), natural parks and other protected areas (1), biodiversity (6), and capacity-building (3). Financial resources for these activities in Africa represent US$ 21,7 million. Spain also supported the activities of the African Centre of Meteorological Application for Development in the amount of Ptas 14,800,000.

Sweden

17. In the past ten years, Sweden supported 101 projects in 17 countries in dryland areas, 13 of which were in Africa. During 1998, more than 200 projects and activities related to the UNCCD were carried out under the Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA) regular programme. The total budget for these amounted to approximately US$ 35 million. SIDA has traditionally focused geographically on eastern and southern Africa and thematically on soil and water conservation and has made available SKr 400,000 to the UNCCD secretariat for regional seminars on local knowledge in the IGAD and SADC regions of Africa. But Sweden is also in the process of developing a programme in western Africa in line with the Convention. Preliminary contacts have been established with representatives of Burkina Faso and Mali, as well as the non-governmental organization communities and multilateral organizations.

18. The strategy of SIDA in the implementation of the UNCCD is to integrate the dryland issues into its ongoing dialogue with individual governments regarding the respective country strategy. At present, SIDA is revising its strategy for collaboration with Africa in order to strengthen the idea of partnership rather than the traditional donor-recipient relationship. This means that the dryland issues must be prioritized and pushed by the respective government as well as by SIDA, in order to increase the share of resources targeted for implementation of dryland projects. In order to further support the Convention, SIDA made available a grant of SKr 1 million to the Global Mechanism during 1998/99.